

Amendments to the Claims:

1.-27. (canceled)

28. (new) A method for controlling quality of sets of scanned image data, comprising the steps of:

determining, by an evaluation unit, an output-relevant quality parameter in a scanned image data set, the output-relevant quality parameter being other than a parameter related to technical suitability for output; and

evaluating the output-relevant quality parameter by comparing the output-specific quality parameter with at least one reference parameter for at least one selected output process.

29. (new) The method of claim 28, wherein the evaluation unit is arranged and dimensioned for evaluating both the scanned image set as a whole and selected areas of the scanned image data set.

30. (new) The method of claim 28, wherein said steps of determining and evaluating are performed on more than one scanned image set.

31. (new) The method of claim 28, wherein the evaluation unit is arranged and dimensioned for evaluating scanned image data sets with a data depth of greater than 1 bit.

32. (new) The method of claim 28, wherein said step of evaluating is performed using software in a computer-based system.

33. (new) The method of claim 28, wherein the output-relevant quality parameter is a screen frequency parameter.

34. (new) The method of claim 28, wherein the output-relevant quality parameter is a screen angle parameter.

35. (new) The method of claim 28, wherein the output-relevant quality parameter is an area coverage parameter.

36. (new) The method of claim 28, wherein the output-relevant quality parameter is a dot shape parameter.

37. (new) The method of claim 28, wherein the output-relevant quality parameter is a spreading/overprinting parameter.

38. (new) The method of claim 28, wherein the output-relevant quality parameter is a total ink application parameter.

39. (new) The method of claim 28, wherein the output-relevant quality parameter is a color space used parameter.

40. (new) The method of claim 28, wherein the output-relevant quality parameter is a Moiré parameter.

41. (new) The method of claim 28, wherein the output-relevant quality parameter is a minimum area coverage parameter.

42. (new) The method of claim 28, wherein the output-relevant quality parameter is a maximum area coverage parameter.

43. (new) The method of claim 28, wherein the output-relevant quality parameter is a smallest dot size in the light parameter.

44. (new) The method of claim 28, wherein the output-relevant quality parameter is a smallest open dot in the depth dimension parameter.

45. (new) The method of claim 28, wherein the output-relevant quality parameter is a screen type parameter.

46. (new) The method of claim 28, further comprising the step of inserting control block data into the scanned image data set, the control block data facilitating determination by the evaluation unit of the output-relevant quality parameter.

47. (new) The method of claim 46, wherein the control block data inserted into the scanned image data set includes an identification code, thereby allowing determination of a position of the control block data within the scanned image data set.

48. (new) The method of claim 28, further comprising the step of inserting a result of said step of evaluating into at least one scanned image data set, the result being in the form of a visually or automatically evaluable identification code.

49. (new) The method of claim 28, further comprising the step of storing sets of reference parameters which contain at least one reference parameter so that the sets of reference parameters are retrievable by the evaluation unit as needed.

50. (new) The method of claim 28, further comprising the step of storing at least one limit value for each reference parameter.

51. (new) The method of claim 50, further comprising the step of transmitting a signal when the at least one limit value is exceeded.

52. (new) The method of claim 52, further comprising the step of initiating an error handling procedure in response to said step of transmitting a signal.

53. (new) The method of claim 28, wherein said steps of determining and evaluating are performed for a quality parameter which is important for further use of the generated output in other output devices.

54. (new) The method of claim 28, wherein the output-relevant quality parameter being other than a resolution and image size.